

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 13, and 22 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-28 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 11-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Growney et al (U.S. Patent No. 7,062,460) in view of Wurman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,133,841). The rejection is respectfully traversed. As previously explained in the Remarks submitted in Amendment A, Growney describes a first buyer and a second buyer bidding on the **same** lot, but asking for a different number of units contained in that **single** lot. Claim 1 as amended recites that “a **first** one of [a combination of lots] includes a **lot** that is **not present in a second** [combination of lots].” For convenience, and without limitation, support for the amendment can be found in Table 1 and accompanying description. Receiving bids on different numbers of units contained within a **single lot** is not receiving a plurality of bids for combinations of lots “wherein a first one of the combinations includes a lot that is not present in a second one of the combinations.” Wurman also does not describe that “a first one of the combinations includes a lot that is not present in a second one of the combinations” as recited in Claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-9 and 11 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Growney in view of Wurman and further in view of Meyers (U.S. Patent No. 7,085,740). Meyers also does not teach that “a first one of the combinations includes a lot that is not present in a second one of the combinations” as recited in Independent Claim 1 from which Claim 10 depends. Therefore, Claim 10 is also believed to be allowable.

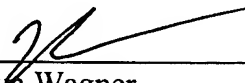
Independent Claims 12, 13, and 22 also recite that “a first one of the combinations includes a lot that is not present in a second one of the combinations” and are believed to be allowable for the reasons described above. Claims 14-21 depend from Claim 13 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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